Statement-IV

Agenda for First Meeting of India-Nepal Joint Standing Technical Committee (JSTC) held on 8-9 *December*, 2008 *at New Delhi*.

1. Review of the on-going activities/continuation of existing Committees/Sub-committees.

2. Pre-feasibility study of Naumure Project.

3. Visit to Mahalisagar.

4. Latest status on Kosi Breach Closure.

5. Issue of embankment on both sides of river Mechi.

6. Gandak Project.

7. Restoration of Damaged Transmission Lines.

8. Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project and Saptakoshi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme.

Leakage of dams

2474. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports on leakage of water from various dams for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details including the life period of such dams fixed during the construction period, State-wise, category-wise and year-wise for the last three years;

(c) if so, the steps taken to rectify the above leak in details, State-wise and category-wise;

(d) if so, whether steps will be taken to construct new dams to replace above old dams; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Seepage for the dams upto a permissible limit is a normal phenomenon. The project authorities collect information about leakage/seepage of water from most of the dams and take remedial measures in case of seepage in excess of permissible limits. As BIS 12182 the feasible service time of irrigation and hydropower projects shall not be less than 100 and 70 years respectively.

The State Governments are mainly the owners of irrigation and multipurpose projects. As such the responsibility of maintenance of the dams and their safety rests with them. The role of Central Government is confined to giving advisory services and framing guidelines with regard to safety and rehabilitation of dams.

(d) and (e) A decision to replace an old dam with a new dam cannot be taken only on the basis of seepage through the dam. Such a situation may arise only if all avenues to restore the safety of the dam as well as functional capability of the dam have been exhausted. All possible alternatives need to be examined by the State Governments/owners of the dam from techno-economic considerations.

Alarming level of ground water in Delhi

2475. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that groundwater levels in various parts of the country particularly in Delhi have dipped alarmingly low;

(b) if so, whether the Central Ground- Water Authority (CGWA) have conducted any survey to know the factors responsible for dipping of groundwater levels;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure proper groundwater levels?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) As per studies conducted by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), decline in the level of ground water has been observed in various parts of the country including NCT Delhi due to withdrawal of ground water in excess of annual recharge.

Government has taken following steps to ensure proper ground water levels:-

- Implementation of a scheme on Artificial Recharge to ground water through Dug wells.
- Implementation of a demonstrative scheme on Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in identified areas during the period 2006-09.
- Circulation of Model Bill to States/UTs to facilitate ground water regulation and water harvesting for artificial recharge.
- Organization of National Ground Water Congress for sharing information and achieving coordination among stakeholders.
- Constitution of Advisory Council on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to popularize the concept of artificial recharge among stakeholders.
- Setting up of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) for the purpose of Regulation and Control of Ground Water Management and Development.

Development of Water Management

2476. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state: